

FRS GOES DX

Verantw. uitg.: P.Vervoort ☆ Verschijnt tweemaandelijks ☆ 20-12-1995
Weertersteenweg 335/3 ☆ 3640 Kinrooi ☆ Afgiftekantoor Maaseik



Volume 14 ▣ Issue 138 ▣ November/December 1995



October 29th 1995: Hans Knot (left) and Andy Brooks in the studio aboard the Ross Revenge presenting the Sunday afternoon show (RSL). *Photo: SMC*

IN THIS FINAL 1995 EDITION:

Fact File: 15 Years FRS-Holland * SW News**

***** Mailbox 2727 *** Artiom Reports... *****

News from around the World * Caroline**



COLOPHON

'FRS GOES DX' is a bimonthly magazine which informs about radio in general and **free radio** in particular. It's a publication of FRS-Holland

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions can take effect in any month but will always end in December. A year's sub costs DM 35/- / £ 35/- / £ 13.50 (Europe) or US\$ 24 (outside Europe). Payments are accepted ☐ *in cash!* ☐ *by eurocheque* ☐ *by int. money order*. Important: eurocheques **must** be written out in either German Marks or Dutch Guilders!! Sample copies (once-only) can be obtained for DM 5.00/- / £ 2.00/- / \$ 3.00/- / 4 irc's

ADVERTISING

Small adds which are not commercial are free of charge for members. Small commercial adverts cost DM 5.00/- / £ 2.00/- / \$ 3.00/- . For full or half page adverts contact the editor.

MAILING ADDRESS

All correspondence should be sent to P.O. Box 2727, 6049 ZG HERTEN in the Netherlands. **Do not use the address which is on the cover!**

CONTRIBUTORS

Peter Verbruggen (editor), Hans Knot, Chris Labers, Marten Boonstra, Joop ter Zee, Norbert Scheel, Patrick Poulin, Stuart Dobson, Herbert Visser, Neal West, Mark Brown, Andrew Yoder, Artiom Prochorov, Nicholas Sharpe, Thorsten Brandenburg, Mark Jones and Gernot Kramer

SOURCES OF INFO

Freewave, Radio World, OEM, Now Radio Magazine, Radio Info.

This edition is circulated to readers in Europe, the USA & New Zealand.

Next edition: Friday February 2nd
Deadline :Wed January 24th 1996

EDITORIAL

Welcome in the final FRSGDX edition of 1995. Another year has almost gone, a year in which six regular editions of this magazine were published. I hope much to your satisfaction.... Fact is it was not a year in which everything went as smoothly as I had hoped for! Keeping the standard of this magazine on a high level is a very time-consuming job, in my eyes sometimes it takes too much of my spare time. But I'm the kind of person who wants to get the best out of it, that's a major stumbling block so now and then. Most important remains the fact YOU, the reader have enjoyed the past six issues.

It was my intention to finish off this edition *before* Christmas. Yes, I have succeeded but I cannot guarantee all of you will receive it in time. A pity because a lot of valuable info regarding X-Mas activities of several SW stations is enclosed. The problem is most postal services are in the middle of what they call the most busy time of the year. And that causes annoying *delays* which seem to be unavoidable. Apologies for that, I can assure you it was simply impossible to publish this edition sooner!!

I realize how unimportant all these things are when being confronted with the sudden death of a shortwave colleague: *Norman Nelson*. Sun evening November 26th I heard the news making me realize how relative things are.

If you are able to listen out on Short wave next Sunday, then make sure you listen to the Christmas programmes of FRS-Holland. The programmes contain all necessary ingredients to offer you a very enjoyable Sunday. Hopefully King Winter won't spoil the party...I mean: we have to make a long drive to the transmitting location. May I end this editorial wishing you and your family a wonderful Christmas time and a happy, healthy 1996. Cheers!

73; *Peter V.*

Page 4	Made in Holland
Page 4-5	Artiom Reports.....
Page 5-6	News from around the World
Page 6-7	Sounds from Offshore
Page 8-15	SW News & Loggings
Page 16-17	Mailbox 2727
Page 18-19	15 Years Frs-Holland

FRS NEWSCORNER

1996 SUBSCRIPTION

As all subscriptions expire, apart from a few people who have already paid for 1996, it's time to renew your membership for the upcoming 12 months. A year's subscription will cost DM 35.00/ f 35,-/ £ 13.50. Last year the majority of our reading audience renewed in January although there were also people who waited very long and send their renewal in February or even later... We make an appeal to all of you to do it as soon as possible. That means your renewal must have reached us **before the next edition**. We won't be sending reminders anymore...those days are over. It's up to you: when you want to be assured of free radio news etc. for another year, YOU must undertake action.

German subscribers only are allowed to send Eurocheques written out in German Marks. Other subscribers' eurocheques **MUST** be written out in Dutch guilders. We **DO NOT** accept other cheques. Payments in cash are also accepted. Do it safely. A third possibility is sending an Int. Money Order from your nearest by local post office. We'd like to thank you in advance for your cooperation!!

FRS-HOLLAND NEWS

RESULTS OCTOBER

First we go back to the October broadcast. In the previous edition we promised to give a listing of some of the sinpo's for the 15th birthday shows. Without doubt we may conclude reception was fair to very good in most areas.

Idar-Oberstein	Germany	54444
Cottbus	Germany	33333
Berlin	Germany	34333
Löbau	Germany	44444
London	England	33333
Ruurlo	Holland	53444
Camberley	England	44444
Charleville	France	55444
Cuxhaven	Germany	44434
Macclesfield	England	44444
Strassbourg	France	24433
Grüt	Switzerland	44333
München	Germany	45444

Well, the above listing is nothing more than just a few random examples of what we received in P.O.Box 2727 in Herten. Some of the more interesting letters are handled in Mailbox 2727.1

FRS-HOLLAND's 15th BIRTHDAY COMPETITION

For those of you who entered our Birthday Competition: there were 6 questions.

Q1: an extract was played. You had to name the group which was *Rheingold* (Fluss-1982).

Q2: You had to mention the name of a song from which we played an extract. Answer: *Buffalo Gals* (1983 -Malcolm McLaren).

Q3: An extract was played, you had to name the group which was *New Musik* (Sanctuary-1980).

Q4: In which was FRS-Holland busted? Answer: 1983.

Q5: What was the name of the first German FRSH presenter? Answer: *Chris*.

Q6: How many years did we use the well-known Dedemsvaart address? Answer is *eight years* (1981-1989).

There was no-one t answering all six questions (or even 5) correctly. We have therefore decided to organize a new competition December 24th. And this time we *promise* to make it not too difficult....!



FRS X-MAS BROADCAST

Sunday December 24th will see the 15th annual FRS Christmas broadcast. A true

tradition! We are happy to know quite a few people did send in their Christmas/ New Year's Greetings. The broadcast will last 4 hours and ingredients are the October mail, greetings, record requests, a X-Mas competition, the FRS jocks' favourite 1995 records and lots of 60s/70s/80s oldies. Here's the programme-schedule:

SUNDAY DECEMBER 24th 1995 FRS-HOLLAND X-MAS PARTY

08.30 FRS X-Mas Party-Peter Ver bruggen & Joop ter Zee
10.30 FRS GOES DX- Peter Verbr.
11.15 Weihnachten with Stefan K.
13.35 Close Down.

Unfortunately, Tony Mitchell is not able to a Christmas show. But he will be back sometime in 1996!

Over the X-Mas Holiday period FRS-Holland will possibly test to North America on either 48 metres or 6955 kHz. This test will be carried out late at night (00.00 UTC) or early in the morning (05.00 UTC) depending on conditions.

BITS AND PIECES

☐ FRS-Holland still has no new Email address, so until further notice we can be contacted via Joop ter Zee's Email address: *Zeesounds@PI.Net*. Up till now quite some people have been contacting us via Email. Joop: thanks for your good work!!!

☐ Something we forgot to mention is the fact that last May the German magazine "Radio Welt" published an article about FRS-Holland. This article is in German. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please send DM 1.00/1 IRC/ one US \$ to our Herten maildrop.

THANKS!!

We'd like to take this opportunity at the end of the year to thank all people who contributed to this very magazine in the past 12 months. We won't mention names but would like to emphasize your support was highly appreciated. And we are looking forward to next year when we once again hope you will be contributing.

December 24th :
1995 FRS-Holland Christmas broadcast on 48 mb!

MADE in HOLLAND

By Chris Latiers



Early November one of our contributors informs us about a quite remarkable action of one of the commercial stations in Holland. London-based Classic FM has been moving its main transmitter to a new site very quietly. The 101.2 mHz signal is now coming from Diemen, near Amsterdam. The antenna is situated on a 150 high chimney. As a result, the station can be received in a much larger area. A radio enthusiast called the station to get some information about this move and circulating rumours about a possible increase in power. The Classic FM spokesman was very puzzled by this request and refused to say anything. It looks like the station has something to hide...

During the last months we informed you about several new Dutch -commercial- radio stations. However, *SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12th* it's time to say goodbye to a radio station. The classical station "Concertzender" ceases its transmissions. The station started 13 years ago as a local Am-

sterdam station. It has been runned by volunteers. Listeners supported the station with gifts. From June 1993 onwards the Concertzender broadcasted 24 hours a day. Five million households could receive the programmes by cable. October 1994 the station was close to an end already. The station was saved by an action by representatives from several organisations from the music industry. However, this now appears to have been a delay of the end of the station only.

At the same time the station broadcasted its last music rumours about a possible takeover circulated. Veronica should be interested in the station, to accomplish its range of stations.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17th the management of the Concertzender accepts an offer made by Veronica. The classical station will be given a donation on a regular basis. This will enable the station to resume broadcasting. The 120 volunteers will keep their 'jobs'. Veronica is searching for

financial partners in the project. There is no intention to turn the station into a commercial one. Benefits will be used to improve the programmes immediately. The station will move into the Veronica buildings in Hilversum.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 27th the transmitting power of Nieuwsradio Veronica is increased from 50 to 120kW. Now the station can be received in the major part of the country. This day also a new 50m aerial mast comes into operation. However, despite these improvements VNR still suffers from heavy interference caused by Radio Tirana during the evening. Tirana uses a transmitter with an output that is six times the VNR power. As a result the Dutch news station will cease transmissions on 1395AM between 20.00 and 23.00 during wintertime. Ofcourse the station can be received via cable 24 hours a day. VNR is trying to obtain another frequency to get rid of these interference problems.

ARTION REPORTS..

Back on the pages of FRS Goes DX.... Here I am and if someone has forgotten: this column is compiled in Moscow and is all about the Russian Free Radio scene. What can I say about it, November 1995? Primarily, it is 5 years ago that the first real free radio sounds were emanating from Russian soil. November 3rd 1990...reminiscing....RIOT Radio was the name of that station, which would be better known under the name Wadio Without Borders Int. as from march 1991 onwards. Five years is a rather long period and in these years "Russian Pirate Number One" went through its starhours (late 1992-early 1993), raid of the police inspired by the envious person from Sevastopol (Radio Black Sea),

successful victory of the courtcase. August 13th 1994 saw the last programme of this station... Now, more than one year later it is clear that the word "last" is a bet-

ter description for the situation than "lastest". This Russian legendary SW station quietly died and will never return on the bands, unfortunately. OP Igor is spending a lot of time on sophisticated computers, which "eat" all of his time and as for me: I joined official radio and have worked for local independent AM station Rakurs as a presenter and consultant at the technical division. Early October I started a new topical project dedicated to the radio scene. This programme has the name "Sixth Ocean- Legends and Realities of the Air" (Thursday 17.10-17.55 UTC on 1467 AM). There I observe different aspects of our space without borders full of electromagnetic radiation from





Offshore 60s to modern technologies. By the way, it often happens that FRS GDX helps me to choose material for that programme (as a reader I would like to thank all other contributors of this magazine). using this case, I'd also like to CQ: if someone has old radiostuff (especially Offshore and Luxemburg) like articles, magazines, promos, tapes or CDs, which are not of interest to you anymore, please send it to me if you want to: Artiom Prochorov, Tashkentskaya Street 19-1-181, Moscow 109444, Russia. It will be highly appreciated. Thanks in advance. Say more: in this programme I am promoting Pirate Broadcasting playing extracts from several Western Free Radio stations and...the station boss doesn't mind!! So I'd like to inform pirates all over the world that you can penetrate on the official Moscow airwaves by sending me your tape along with information about your station. December 1st everyone involved in radio business here in Moscow will get to know the results of the competition for obtain-

ing a new FM frequency (or frequencies ??). If you would take a look on page 7 of FRS GDX 134, on which I informed about the Moscow FM band, one may understand that this is rather overloaded by high powered txs (some of them are 15 to 20 kW) and the main question to all interested persons is which frequencies will be given free. Anyway, Radio rakurs already prepared all necessary burocrate stuff for taking part. late Spring this year we were losers and the 107.4 was given to Radio ART, in spite of the fact Radio rakurs has a proper tx originally tuned to this very frequency.

Continuing with FM news. It will be my last info as far as this column is concerned and happened just a week ago, October 28th 1995. If you take a quick look at my FRS GDX 134 contribution, you will see that 106.8 was used by Radio Panorama, which was the one of three stations, which in spite of a coimmercial format, had its own style and "personality". Fact is that very day Radio Panorama closed... It real-

ly died just within 15 minutes! It is said the txs were unexpectedly disconnected, followed by 15 minutes of silence. Afterwards the frequency began pulsing in ambient rhythms. Midnight October 28th saw the birth of a new project from the Panorama studios and using txs on both FM frequencies (106.8 FM and 69.26 OIRT lower FM band). The newcomers simply call themselves Radio Station and as their executive producer sad to me "we are looking for progressive youngsters listening to rave, techno and house music." They play this type of music 24 hours a day without news and weather reports. Unfortunately, it was impossible to ask Panorama officials for any comments, but the producer of Radio Stations adds that no-one of panorama is involved. The question remains why Panorama closed so unexpectedly and whether they return on FM. God only knows, time will show... Till next time, from Moscow, exclusively to FRS Goes DX, this is Artiom closing down.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



TURKEY

October saw a massive action of the government versus the many illegal radio stations in the country. Most of the illegal stations had to cease their activities following court-cases. An estimated 100 stations plus a few TV stations were forced to close down.

POLAND

In Poland a new radio station has commenced broadcasts on 1503 kHz AM. Trms are taking place via the frequency & transmitters of the former overseas service of Radio Polonia. Tests in English, Swedish and Polish have been heard, only consisting of Beatles music. It is not known yet what name the station will be using in future. A Warsaw-based advertising agency is canvas-

sing potential advertisers. Funny to add is that the irregular character of the tests, made some people believe these tests were coming from a pirate station....

USA

SW RADIO FROM ALASKA

The New Life Station KNSL being active from Alaska, can be heard till the end of March in English on 6140 kHz starting at 9 am and from 14 pm (UTC) onwards on 7365 kHz. Reception reports can be sent to KNSL, P.O.Box 473, Anchor Point, Alaska 99556 in the USA.

RADIO FORMATS

Recently information about the used formats of the many US radio stations was published. It is clear that country is the most popular

one among the several formats: 26.3% of the stations is country-orientated which stands for no less than 2588 stations. The second position in the top 10 was for News, Talk, Sports & Business with a 11.7% share (=1151 stations). At the third position Adult Contemporary (7.3%=715 stations). The rest of the top 10: Oldies, Religious Music, Rock, Adult Standards, Religion Teaching, Spanish and on number 10 Soft Adult Contemporary. And what about the once so popular Top 40 format? This format reached an 11th position (3.4%=333 stations). Times have changed!

ANNUAL AWARDS

Last October the annual *Billboard Awards* have been awarded. In particular the New York Top 40/Adult station WPLJ was very successful. In all 5 nominated catagories,



WPLJ won an award. WPLJ was chosen as the number one station in the category "Station of the Year". Programme-director Scott Shannon became "Programme-Director of the Year" and WPLJ colleague Mike Preston "Music-Director of the Year". In addition: Todd Pettengill and Scott Shannon were chosen as the best local presenters. Last year WPLJ won already four Awards. An innovative station!!

Ofcourse: not all Awards were presented to WPLJ. To mention just a few of a total of 83 Awards: WMTX from Tampa Florida better known as Mix 96 became "Medium Market Station of the Year"; KKBQ from Houston became "Country Station of the Year". Most of the Rock Awards were for KROQ (Best Major Marker Rock Station). Within the Top 40 category WHITZ, better known as Z100 (yes, Scott Shannon used to work for this one a few years ago!) was the big winner:

"Station of the Year". Steve Kingston became "Programme Director of the Year" and Z100 colleague Kevin Weatherly "Programme Director of the Year".

BELGIUM

Approx. 50% of the 340 local Belgian independent radio stations (also called free radio's) in Flanders have to disappear. At least, that's the intention of Minister *Erik van Rompuy*. Strange enough he hasn't explained WHY so many stations have to close down. A possible reason is many stations are working with heavy lossess. Self protection??

GREAT BRITAIN

MERGER

Following a merger between BBC Radio

Oxford and Radio Berkshire which is scheduled to take place early 1996, none of the current employees will be sure to continue working for the new regional station. At present time 52 people are working for both stations, only 37 will be taking up a post on the new station.

SYNDICATED SHOW

An estimated 45 ILR-stations are broadcasting Bruno Brooks' weekly syndicated Breakfast Show each & every Saturday morning. The first edition went out October 14th. The show is distributed by EMAP. The live show is coming from the Mill House studios in Berkshire and it's the first syndicate show at this point of time. The fact many well-known people do guest appearances in the show and fantastic prizes are to be won makes the show attractive. During a 6 month period Bruno was developing the concept bearing in mind (i)his show had to become very popular and successful.

SOUNDS FROM OFFSHORE



RADIO CAROLINE

Hans Knot, our main offshore expert, went to the UK in October (together with SMC's Rob Olthof) and visited the Ross Revenge being moored in London at the moment Caroline was broadcasting via a Restricted Service License (October 6th-November 2nd). He wrote the following report:

"Wednesday October 25th we arrived in London. Listening to Caroline the first impression was that the station was sounding much too poppy certainly not focussing at the hardcore listeners of the station. Reception in Hanwell (West of London) was miraculously good. Take into consideration the Ross Revenge is anchored East of the British capital in the Docklands. A microwave transmitter on board the ship linked the signal to the FM rig which was located in the North-East of London (Shooters Hill). In contrast with the AM tx which was used during the Clacton-on-Sea RSL earlier this year, this FM unit couldn't be adjusted: the location was being guarded. Naturally we took a look on the Ross Revenge today.

We weren't the only Dutch persons on the ship. Paul de Haan, our contributor (Free-

wave Magazine), was also present. The biggest surprise on that Wednesday was our meeting with Dick Palmer. This famous engineer already worked in the mid-70s on the Mi Amigo. In 1985 Ronan O'Rahilly hired him for a brief period to carry out maintenance on the Ross Revenge. Already in the 60s Dick Palmer worked on an offshore station, being active from a fort in the Thames Estuary. You may take it for granted we heard a number of great anecdotes. Hopefully he will be able to tell them on the Dutch annual Offshore Day March 22nd in Haarlem. Anyway, we have invited him.

That same Wednesday we talked to Peter Moore. After Dick Palmer had left the ship, we had to wait on Peter and in the mean time we started talking to Howard Beer and a few other crewmembers. Beer was-in our eyes-an irritating instigator who thought he was the boss on the radio-ship. This would result in a number of unpleasant incidents the following days. One of Beer's most remarkable statements was that Peter Moore's PR knowledge is very good but that of radio the contrary. Later that week he would be hitting Ronan O'Rahilly and had a few big arguments with Peter Moore. It became clear there are two groups within the current

Caroline organisation: one group is willing to return to sea (Beer) while the others prefer RSL broadcasts.

Following Peter Moore's arrival three DTI men were guided round the ship by him and Jane, an excellent PR lady. Among them two persons having executive functions and they had one thing in common: being very surprised about the equipment on the ship and its dimensions. Packed with souvenirs they left the ship late in the afternoon.

Later on that evening Moore told us that the gentlemen were prepared to support Caroline obtaining a definitive license. Question however is to what extent the DTI has influence on decisions and where the enormous amount of money must come from which is needed ??

The Ross Revenge will be moored in London till early January. The Caroline people are hoping to collect some more money which is badly needed for the ship's maintenance in a dry dock. Two possible options are Bradwell and Chatham.

Peter Moore was very satisfied about the large number of people visiting the Ross. He expected that a total of 2500 people (admittance: f £ 5.00 per person) would be counted at the end of the 28 day licence.



Another £10,000 was paid by several sponsors. Before the end of October some £ 15,000 was received for commercial airtime. Another lucrative business was the Caroline ship. This time the ship was NOT near the ship but ON the ship! A wide variety of Horizon Sales articles and SMC stuff were available. More than 900 Tshirts/Sweatshirts were sold.

Somebody frequently visiting the ship was an Irishman named Ronan O'Rahilly. During a number of visits he was attended by friends, possibly he was trying to persuade them to support Caroline financially...

Thursday October 26th we paid a visit to one of our British contributors, Chris Cortez. He could easily pick up the Caroline 87.7 MHz FM trms on his Grundig Yachtboy. His location: Cherry Hinton, some 6 kilometres south of Cambridge. Quite amazing Caroline FM tx had an output of only 25 watts! Cortez told us the Carolineship needed maintenance. This would be soon taking place. For 1996 RSLs are planned in Brighton and Clacton-on-Sea. The caroline ship would be used to promote the famous annual Brighton Festival. Bob le Roi has shown interest to use the Caroline ship for a RSL

in the Medway area.

To most offshore enthusiasts the name Tony Allen must sound familiar. Tony, living in London, presented a 3 hour show Saturday October 28th. He also recorded a number of voice-overs (adverts, promos). Sun October 29th Andy Brooks and I presented a show in which we looked back to Caroline's history. Many visitors on board this Sunday which was sometimes annoying to the programme makers. Among the visitors Caroline Martin, Dave Asher and Tom Lodge.

Thursday November 2nd the 28 day period of London FM trms was celebrated with a party, partly sponsored by advertisers. Some of them were present, together with all the people who were involved with the RSL. To mention a few names: Mike Ahearn, Mark Sloane, Steve Masters, John Aston & Tom Lodge. You will recognize some of the names were already active on Caroline in the 1960s!! Tom Lodge presented the 6-9 and Johnny Reece the final 9-12 pm slot that evening.

Sunday November 5th it was 5 years ago that Caroline was for the last time to be heard as an offshore radio station from the high seas.... "

MISCELLANEOUS

On the annual Dutch Offshore Day which will be taking place March 22nd at 11.00 hours in Haarlem in Hotel De Raekse, Aan de Raekse 1, a number of new videos (Veronica, the early days of offshore radio) are being shown. Guests will be Ad Bouman who is the only from the 1960s still active on the station and hopefully Dick Palmer (see Caroline report) who worked for Caroline and Radio Essex.

INTERNET

Henk Leppers who is very familiar to some of the FRSH persons, has started his very own *homepage on Internet*. On this page radio-info, news, extracts, jingles and Henk's personal column. There are so-called hyperlinks to Howard Rose's and the Anorak homepages. Every week Henk has fresh news on his site. If you are interested, then surf to his homepage:: <http://www.pi.net/~henklep/home.html>. Or contact him *via Email*: Henklep@pi.net.



London November 2nd 1995: Caroline's farewell party celebrating the successful 28 day London FM transmissions. Third on the left is Mike Ahearn, sixth from left Tom Lodge and right from him Mark Sloane.

Photo: hans Knot.

SW SURVEY

The SIO's are for the UK and the continent respectively. In case there's no SIO at all listed, the station was *only* logged in Scandinavia. SW addresses are to be found elsewhere in this column. In this issue we cover the period *Saturday November 11th- Sunday December 10th 1995*.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11th 1995

Mariquita	3915	23.38	--	333
Mirage	3936	23.05	--	322
Speedwing R.	3955	16.20	--	-4
Party Radio	3985	14.34	--	222
Nexus/IRRS	3985	15.50	--	-3
Caroline(Fr.)	6199	12.40	--	333
Jolly Roger	6220	15.50	--	-2
Dr.Tim.	6270	10.26	--	444
Int.Music R.	6270	10.56	--	232
Unid	6295	10.15	--	322
Unid	6310	12.42	--	333
Dublin	6915	10.00	--	343
Wonderful	7125	09.25	--	333
IRRS	7125	10.30	--	444
Sparks	7125	12.47	--	433
Sparks	7125	13.02	--	444
Europe	7295	09.40	--	-3

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12th 1995

Reflections	3910	16.00	232	433
Daiwa	3911	10.43	--	333
Moonlight	3913	09.59	--	333
Jimmy	3915	10.26	--	443
Int.Music R.	3925	00.05	--	-2
Mariquita	3925	00.10	--	222
Caroline(Fr.)	6199	09.15	242	333
Ozone	6210	11.20	454	322
Weekend MR	6210	15.15	--	232
Unid	6210	11.47	--	444
Laser	6220	10.30	--	-2
Jolly Roger	6220	10.04	-1	232
Seasound	6220	11.03	--	-2
Gemini	6220	11.30	242	--
UK Radio	6233	12.48	242	232
R.Communic.	6239	12.15	--	-3
Kilo Lima	6240	11.19	--	232
Delta Tango 54	6240	11.23	--	343
Sierra Tango	6240	11.25	--	444
R.Communic.	6240	12.48	--	444
Perfekt	6240	09.16	--	444
Int.Music R.	6245	13.04	--	343
R.Free London	6250	10.55	343	222
Unid	6252	10.00	--	322
Unid	6255	11.49	--	443
Unid	6260	11.08	--	333

Int.Music R.	6260	11.10	--	222
Midland M.R.	6260	12.59	343	232
Santana	6273	13.41	--	444
Ozone	6275	10.14	333	311
Int.Music R.	6275	13.55	--	333
R.Communic.	6276	13.44	--	444
Unid	6279	13.30	--	-2
Good Fun Radio	6280	08.32	--	333
Crazy Wave R.	6281	09.55	--	444
Dr.Tim	6281	13.10	--	444
Perfekt	6281	14.37	--	-3
Crazy Wave R.	6281	09.30	--	-4
Nordsee	6282	14.50	--	-4
Santana	6283	14.42	--	-3
Unid	6284	11.40	--	232
Laguna	6291	09.27	--	332
R.Free London	6294	09.20	343	333
Reflections	6295	16.00	555	333
R.R.P.A.	6305	12.50	--	444
Dublin	6915	10.05	-1	343
Europe	7295	08.30	--	444
Europe	7300	10.02	--	433

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18th 1995

Int.Music R.	3920	23.30	--	-2
Sunshine	3985	14.38	--	222
Caroline(Fr.)	6199	13.11	--	333
Dublin	6915	10.00	--	-3
Azteca	6955	22.02	--	-?
Free Speech	6955	19.07	--	-?
WGBR	6955	14.36	--	-?
NAPRS	6955	23.50	--	-2
Unid	6957	16.38	--	-?
Joystick	7125	12.00	--	-3
Sunshine	7125	13.00	--	-2

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19th 1995

Moonlight	3900	17.46	--	-4
Unid	3910	09.28	--	-4
Driland	3910	09.39	--	-4
Reflections	3910	16.30	-1	-4
Driland	3912	09.24	--	-4
Moonlight	3913	10.04	--	-3
Int.Music R.	3920	00.18	--	-2
Meteoor	3920	17.23	--	-4
Int.Music R.	3920	18.33	--	-2
Jimmy	3938	17.25	--	-3
RTN	3985	16.18	--	343
Francis Drake	3985	17.26	--	444
Free Euphoria	6100	14.00	--	-?
Caroline(Fr.)	6200	08.30	242	-3
Unid	6204	11.49	232	-2
Ozone	6210	10.36	232	-3
Outlaw	6210	10.41	--	222
Weekend MR	6210	14.15	454	-3
Laser Hot Hits	6220	08.34	242	-2

Jolly Roger	6220	10.40	--	-2
UK Radio	6233	10.16	242	-3
Unid	6233	09.11	--	-3
Jolly Roger	6235	09.23	242	-2
Benelux	6245	08.55	242	-4
Laguna	6245	10.05	--	-2
Int.Music R.	6245	10.18	--	-2
Communication	6246	10.28	--	-3
Brigitte	6253	11.30	--	-3
Benelux	6260	08.55	242	-4
Midlands M.R.	6260	11.47	-1	-3
Pluto	6270	10.48	--	-3
Subterranean S.	6276	10.43	444	-3
Mirage	6280	08.55	555	-3
Titanic	6280	10.00	555	-3
Outlaw Radio	6280	12.15	--	-2
Laguna	6291	10.38	--	-2
Unid	6293	12.50	--	-3
R.Good Fun	6295	08.05	-1	-3
Reflections	6295	16.30	555	-4
Driland	6297	10.04	--	-4
RRPA	6302	13.36	--	-3
La Voz del CID	6306	07.45	--	-3
Pandora	6306	10.03	444	-3
Dublin	6915	08.40	--	-3
Europe	7300	10.30	--	-3
Wrekin' Radio	12265	10.15	--	-2

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25th 1995

Unid	3910	23.30	--	-2
Unid	3915	17.35	--	-2
Mariquita	3925	15.40	--	443
Pamela	3945	15.40	--	443
IRRS	3985	16.25	--	333
Caroline(Fr.)	6199	12.12	--	333
Unid	6295	10.07	--	433
La Voz del CID	6306	10.10	--	333
Brigitte	6576	10.13	--	422
Unid (Ital.)	6580	10.12	--	433
Dublin	6915	10.00	--	343
Up Against the Wall	6955	22.40	--	-3
Joystick	7125	09.25	--	444
Eurorock	7125	12.15	--	433
Francis Drake	7125	13.08	--	444
Europe	7295	08.30	--	-3

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26th 1995

Jimmy	3910	10.56	--	433
Reflections	3910	16.30	--	444
Unid	3912	13.38	--	222
Moonlight	3913	10.27	--	444
Int.Music R.	3915	11.10	--	232
Santana	3915	10.55	--	433
Select	3915	10.34	--	444
Int.Music R.	3920	16.17	--	333



Jimmy	3920	16.22	--	433
Mariquita	3925	16.27	--	444
Eurorock	3985	16.37	--	433
Francis Drake	3985	17.34	--	444
Caroline(Fr.)	6199	09.40	--	333
Brigitte	6215	10.10	--	433
Good Music R.	6220	10.36	--	444
Ozone	6220	11.25	--	-4
Laser Hot Hits	6220	12.03	--	343
Int.Music R.	6220	11.52	--	333
UK Radio	6233	09.05	--	322
Jolly Roger	6235	09.30	--	222
Britain R.	6235	10.05	--	333
Level 1	6245	09.41	--	444
Level 1	6251	09.53	--	444
Level 1	6259	09.58	--	433
Unid	6260	10.13	--	433
Torenvalk	6260	10.32	--	444
Benelux	6260	11.16	--	422
Unid	6260	11.45	--	444
Crazy wave	6260	11.52	--	433
Midland MR	6260	16.25	--	433
Transatlantic	6260	09.02	--	433
Level 1	6260	10.04	--	444
Dr.Tim	6270	09.53	--	333
Zodiac	6280	10.14	--	422
Optimod	6280	11.50	--	433
Dr.Tim.	6281	09.01	--	433
Unid	6288	10.59	--	222
Amazonia	6291	08.59	--	232
Good Fun	6295	08.30	--	333
Rflections	6295	16.30	--	433
RRPA	6302	13.35	--	444
La Voz del CID	6306	07.30	--	333
Pandora	6306	10.10	--	422
Europe	7295	09.50	--	-3
Britain R.	7359	10.02	--	433
Wrekin' Radio	12265	08.45	--	-4

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2nd 1995

Unod	3920	12.33	--	343
Grensjager	3920	13.06	--	444
Daiwa	3921	09.32	--	444
Mariquita	3925	19.30	--	333
Pamela	3945	15.29	--	433
Caroline(FR.)	6199	12.34	--	433
Joystick	7125	09.15	--	444
Eurorock	7125	12.02	--	444
Sunshine	7125	13.50	--	433
IRRS	7215	14.06	--	333
Sunshien	7295	09.41	--	444
Europe	7300	10.55	--	444
Sunshien	7300	14.07	--	444

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3rd 1995

Ridiculous	3909	14.27	--	444
Reflections	3910	15.30	--	444
Moonlight	3913	10.20	--	444
Int.Music R.	3915	10.25	--	222
Ridiculous	3919	11.30	--	444

Jimmy	3920	10.42	--	444
Select	3920	11.08	--	333
Daiwa	3921	09.55	--	444
Driland	3923	10.13	--	444
Mariquita	3925	16.00	--	343
Ridiculous	3939	14.33	--	444
Transatlantic	3940	14.24	--	444
SWR Switz.	3985	15.59	--	422
Wellenbrecher	3985	16.00	--	422
Josonic Sound	3985	17.00	--	444
Caroline(Fr.)	6199	09.50	--	333
Jolly Roger	6220	10.18	--	232
UK Radio	6233	10.15	--	322
Communication	6240	12.37	--	444
Subterranean S.	6256	09.54	--	433
Dr.Tim	6270	10.50	--	232
Int.Music R.	6275	14.19	--	232
Perfekt	6277	10.12	--	433
Crystal	6278	09.38	--	333
Dr.Tim	6281	10.10	--	222
Wonderful	6290	09.09	--	333
Good Fun	6295	08.30	--	433
Reflections	6295	15.30	--	444
La Voz del Cid	6306	10.11	--	333
RRPA	6308	14.21	--	433
R.Free London	6400	10.29	--	444
Marabu	7295	08.55	--	444
Sunshine	7295	09.53	--	433
Marabu	7300	12.05	--	444

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9th 1995

Radio Pamela	3945	14.50	--	222
Star Club Radio	3945	23.11	--	322
Caroline France	6199	12.34	--	433
Wellenbrecher	7125	12.45	--	444
Radio Marabu	7295L	09.20	--	444

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10th 1995

Radio Jimmy	3910	10.35	--	444
Reflections	3910	16.30	454	433
Radio Pluto	3913	10.24	--	444
Moonlight	3913	09.58	--	444
Radio Select	3916	10.25	--	443
R. Brigitte	3920	10.23	--	222
Black Arrow	3921	10.39	--	422
Radio Oscar	3925	10.19	--	444
Universal Live	3985	14.32	--	444
Casablanca	3985	17.19	--	422
Caroline France	6199	09.15	--	444
R. Free London	6210	14.12	444	433
Ozone Radio	6210	11.41	444	443
Laser Hot Hits	6220	09.15	--	232
Jolly Roger R.	6220	11.19	--	222
UK Radio	6233	09.13	--	322
Britain Radio Int.	6236	10.10	444	434
CWR	6245	09.10	--	444
Subter. Sounds	6256	13.35	--	443
CWR	6260	09.12	--	333
R. Black Beard	6265	09.25	--	343
Radio Orion	6275	11.49	--	333

Speedwing R.	6280	11.06	--	443
Radio Dr. Tim	6281	10.45	--	232
R. Free London	6285	08.40	444	443
Star Club Radio	6290	09.15	--	232
Radio Good Fun	6295	08.43	--	343
Radio King	6295	11.12	--	232
Reflections	6295	16.30	--	444
Unid	6298	10.15	--	311
Unid	6298	09.05	--	222
Ozone Radio	6300	10.03	444	433
R. Free London	6400	09.17	444	443
Radio Europe	7295L	09.17	--	444
Britain Radio	7359	10.10	--	444

NORMAN NELSON

The sad news- putting all other news to the background- is the death of well-known Radio East Coast Commercial OP Norman Nelson. We received the following letter from Neal West:

"Norman Nelson, operator of Short Wave Radio Station Radio East Coast Commercial passed away suddenly on Wednesday Evening November 22nd 1995.

Norman was just 49 years old and had been a Free Radio Broadcaster for over 30 years. Norman was also my number one mate and will be very sadly missed."

Ironically some two weeks before the bad news reached us, we received the annual announcement of RECC's traditional live Christmas broadcast which was planned- just like other years- on Christmas Day. It was added that the Dec. 25th broadcast would possibly be the final RECC SW broadcast. According to Neal West, Norman was completely disillusioned with the free radio scene in that after spending many hours putting the programme together and then airing them he felt he was wasting his time when situations occurred like Coast FM coming on 6250 and spreading across the band from 6235-6260 with a great deal of splatter.

No doubt RECC's transmissions will be sadly missed as Norman Nelson was very popular with his DX-Show.

CONDITIONS/GENERAL

First of all: the LUND ADDRESS in Sweden is no more in operation !!!

Remarkable is the fact some (German) stations are nowadays regularly using 6245 at moments Radio Vatican is off air. 6245 is a fine channel and the first station "discovering" 6245 was Radio Benelux. Others have followed.

Looking back to the past few weeks, the conclusion is that conditions on Sundays

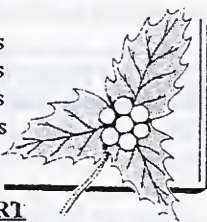


have been going up and down. Two November Sundays were very satisfactory: the 12th and 26th. In particular November 12th was splendid, the result was that approx. 25 different stations were to be heard on mainly 48 metres. Not bad at all, more fun, choice and listening pleasure for the SW DXers across Europe. November 19th conditions were poor while December 3rd can be best described as fair (at the best). December 10th conditions were quite variable. During the earlier part of the morning signals of a few stations were going up and down between good and poor. Main spoilsport was the noise and fading. Later on that morning conditions became more stable and better, several stations were to be heard with fine signals. One can only hope that conditions during the Christmas period will be better compared with 1994... Sun December 24th, Monday December 25th and Boxing Day December 26th will be the most interesting days as far as station-activity is concerned. But expect also quite some activity on Saturday December 23rd and during a number of evenings. Other interesting days could be Sun December 31st- New Year's Eve- and of course New Year's Day January 1st 1996! The last few years learnt that even in the period between December 26th and December 31st a number of stations are active on SW. All in all the upcoming period will be an exciting one to anyone who loves to DX on the free radio bands... If conditions are a bit favourable, nothing can spoil YOUR very own SW X-Mas Party... Have a nice DX!

In this edition quite a number of references regarding special X-Mas shows. We sincerely hope this magazine reaches you BEFORE X-Mas. As most national Postal Services are in the middle of the most busy time of the year, we cannot guarantee anything!! It was impossible to finish off this edition a few days earlier.

Finally some figures about the number of stations being active on Sundays (76 metres NOT included) in the period Nov. 12th- Dec. 10th:

Nov. 12th 25 stations
Nov. 19th 27 stations
Nov. 26th 22 stations
Dec. 3rd 15 stations
Dec. 10th stations



THE 76 mb REPORT

Activity on 76 metres remained stable. It's remarkable that on a number of Saturdays activity was at a very low level while during Sundays lots of stations were to be heard. More and more stations-primarily

- 1 = P.O.Box 220342 / D-42373 WUPPERTAL / Germany
- 2 = 14 Stone Row/ COLERAINE/ Co. Londonderry/ BT52 1EP/ Northern Ireland
- 3 = 32 Victoria Road/ SALISBURY/ Wiltshire SP1 3NG/ England
- 4 = P.O.Box 130/ 92504 RUEIL Cedex/ France
- 5 = 12 Dorman Rd/ PRESTON/ Lancs PR2 6AS/ England
- 6 = c/o Stefan Printz/ Kamnarsvagan 13D:220/ 22646 LUND/ Sweden
- 7 = P.O.Box 383/ 5900 AJ VENLO/ the Netherlands
- 8 = Box 293/ Merlin/ Ontario NOP 1W0/ Canada
- 9 = 34B Drift Road/ Clanfield/ Waterlooville/ Harts PO8 0JL/ England
- 10 = SRS/ Östra Porten 29/ 442 54 YTTERBY/ Sweden

Dutch ones- are noted on Sun mornings while the late Sun afternoon/early evening is still a very popular time for the mainly QSO-stations. Best reception on 76 metres in Europe is about 17.00 UTC. Also on Sun mornings conditions aren't bad at all.

RADIO MARIQUITA from Italy was noted on 3925 kHz most weekends at different times. Sat Nov. 11th for instance a fair signal was heard at 23.38 while two weeks later the station was heard at 15.40 UTC. During the 4th November weekend reception was better than normal because of the fairly good conditions. December 2nd & 3rd the audio which the Mariquita tx produced was on a too low level affecting the audibility. Address is GAMT, Box 3, Succursale 10, 31100 Treviso in Italy *** **RADIO MIRAGE** from Great Britain is not a very regular 76 mb station. Nevertheless the station was noted in fair quality on 3935 kHz Sat November 11th at 23.05 UTC. Address is (1). October 28th Mirage was on the same frequency (via RTT) but that trm had to be cancelled due to technical problems. We think the Nov. 11th broadcast was a relay, perhaps again via Titanic?? See also SW News *** German **SPEEDWING RADIO** is active on both 76 & 48 metres. In the past weeks one 76 mb broadcast was heard, namely on Sat November 11th when a fine signal was logged on 3955 at 16.20 UTC. Over the X-Mas period the station will be active on medium wave, possibly 1539 kHz or 1593 kHz. Trms are scheduled for the Dec. 23rd- 27th period between 01.00-02.00 UTC. Address is (1) *** Dutch station **RADIO DAIWA** had a broadcast on 3911 Sun Nov. 12th during the late morning period. In the first Dec. weekend strong signals were heard on both Sat & Sun mornings. Address is Box 102, 7360 AC Beekbergen *** The same address is used by another very regular Dutch 76 mb station **RADIO JIMMY**. Since Sun November 12th, Jimmy was noted every weekend. The station prefers

to be on air on Sundays in the morning hours and late afternoon. No doubt Jimmy is one of Holland's most active stations always producing solid signals! For instance Sun Dec. 10th a strong signal was heard on 3910 at 10.35 UTC *** We move to Switzerland, a country which didn't play any role in the European free radio SW scene a couple of years ago. But since **INTERNATIONAL MUSIC RADIO & RADIO SPARKS** started to broadcast and SWR-Switzerland was founded, things have changed dramatically. Nowadays IMR is one of the most active 3.9 MHz broadcasters in Western Europe and has played an important role in making 76 mb more popular among DXers and stations. IMR has been heard on a variety of frequencies (VFO-controlled tx) all November weekends as well as December 2nd. Mostly used frequencies were 3915 & 3920 and not 3945 which used to be the station's favourite channel. Unfortunately the quality of most signals has been poor/fair. See also SW News column. Some final news: IMR has announced weekly Sun evening trms starting at 21.00 UTC. Address is Box 510, CH-4010 Basel in Switzerland *** Dutch powerhouse **RADIO MOONLIGHT** (address: see Daiwa) was heard on Sun Nov. 19th & 26th and Dec. 3rd. Most trms took place on 3913, signals were splendid as ever! Moonlight concentrates on QSO-ing. The station can be rarely heard on Sat evenings nowadays! *** German station **RADIO DRILAND** produced very good signals November 19th & Dec. 3rd. During both Sundays Driland was noted during the morning hours around 10.15 UTC on 3900/3913 kHz. address is Box 1732, D-48578 Gronau in Germany *** In the previous issue we reported a few station OPs would meet at the IMR location during the 3rd November weekend. As a result a joint IMR/Laguna/Wellenbrecher trm was heard on 3920 Sun November 19th at 00.18 UTC. Signal was poor/fair *** **RADIO METEOR** has been rather inactive



in recent weeks. Sun November 19th saw the station on 3920 with an excellent signal. Address is Box 71, 7720 AB Dalfsen *** **RADIO PAMELA** popped up on 3945 Sat Nov. 25th at 15.40 UTC. A week later the same procedure took place, same frequency, same time. Signal was fair to good on the continent. And also Sat December 9th Pamela was received in solid quality on 3945 on the continent. It looks like as if these broadcasts are part of a weekly 3945 kHz schedule. Most of the station's output consists of rock mx. Address is P.O.Box 35, CH-6027 Romerswil in Switzerland *** **RADIO SELECT** from Germany "surprised" us with a few broadcast on 3.9 MHz. Sun Nov. 26th a strong signal was noted on 3915 at 10.34 UTC, a week later a fair signal was heard on 3920. During the latter trm the mod level was too low. Last but not least: Sun Dec. 10th a fair/good signal was to be heard on 3916. Address is Box 51, 6671 CA Zetten in Holland (?) *** So now and then Dutch station **RADIO SANTANA** is active on SW. In the morning of Sun November 26th a fair signal was noted on 3915. Santana has also been heard a number of times on 48 metres. Address is Box 46, 7160 AA Neede *** A new appearance on '76' is **GRENSJAGER ZENDER**. It seems that this one- in contrast with most other Dutch stations- is broadcasting from a location in the very southern part of Holland, very close to the Belgian border. Sat December 2nd the station produced a real strong signal on 3920 kHz. Address is B.O.Box 136, 5110 AC Baarle-Nassau *** **RADIO RIDICULOUS** was heard very well on three different frequencies Sun Dec. 3rd: 3910, 3919 (11.30) & 3940 (14.33) *** Rotterdam-based **TRANSATLANTIC RADIO** was only heard once on 76 metres: Sun December 3rd a test was noted on 3940 kHz. Signal-strength was good. Address is Box 4427, 3006 AK Rotterdam *** **RADIO PLUTO** can nowadays be heard rather rarely. Sun Dec. 10th Pluto produced a fine signal on 3913. Address: see SW Newssection *** **RADIO BRIGITTE** is not known for its 76 mb activities! But the broadcast on Sun Dec. 10th at 10.23 on 3920 was the exception which proves the rule. Signal-quality was poor. Address: see SW Newssection *** German station **STAR CLUB RADIO** was relayed (?) on 3945 kHz Sat Dec. 9th. At 23.10 a



poor signal was received, perhaps via IMR?? Address is (1) *** **RADIO BLACK ARROW** tried on 76 metres and was briefly heard on 3921 Sun Dec. 10th. Signal was ok but due to interference the overall merit was poor. Who knows the address?? *** New on 76 metres in **RADIO OSCAR**. Sun Dec. 10th this (Dutch?) station was QSO-ing on 3925 at 10.25 UTC. Address unknown *** **STARSHINE RADIO** is soon celebrating/ has celebrated its 3rd birthday. As the station used to put out a special X-mas show, there is a chance to hear the station over the Festive Season. The station used to be often on 3920 kHz but also 3940 was in use. Address is (1) *** **RADIO CLCG** announces the following X-Mas schedule: Dec. 23rd 22.00 3920, Dec. 25th 17.00 3920, Dec. 26th 13.00 6260 and Dec. 30th 15.00 3920. Whether the latter broadcast will take off, is not 100% certain.

THE SW NEWS

Good news from one of the leading SW free radio stations **BRITAIN RADIO INT.** After a long period of reduced activity, BRI seems to be back with a regular 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month schedule. Sunday November 26th BRI was to be heard via its own txs on 6236/7359 kHz. It was Roger Davis who during that broadcast made mention of the tragic death of Norman Nelson, OP of RECC. BRI signals were fair/good on the continent. Sun Dec. 10th BRI was again on the air with a shortened 2 hour 10.15-12.15 UTC broadcast including an interesting John Lennon tribute, commemorating it was 15 years ago he was shot down near his New York apartment. Roger Davis was hosting the show giving much info and playing a number Beatles and John Lennon records. Roger also said that Sun Nov. 26th BRI crashed with JRR on 6235.

JRR's OP Joe Vincent had forgotten BRI would be on 6235. At that moment JRR was celebrating its birthday. Luckily JRR shifted soon to 6220! Back to BRI's Dec. 10th broadcast: during the first part of the trm, 7359 was totally inaudible (at least: at the FRS QTH) but when we tried the frequency at 11.40 UTC, a loud signal was noted. The same applies to 6236: during most of the broadcast a wonderful signal was being received! Roger Davis said BRI will be "reasonably active" over the X-Mas period. BRI will be on air Sun Dec. 24th, X-Mas Day Dec. 25th, Boxing Day Dec. 26th & likely also on New Year's Day. All listeners who send in their Season's Greetings to BRI before X-Mas, have a chance to win a prize. Three winners will be drawn during one of the X-Mas trms. The 32 Victoria Rd address will be definitively closing down as from Dec. 25th onwards. BRI can be reached via (4) and a second, new address in the UK will be announced early next year.

RADIO FREE LONDON has been rather active in recent weeks. The crew of West & North Kent Radio got involved with RFL following a decision to cease the SW broadcasts for the time being. Several months nothing was heard from WNKR (Dave Martin, Terry Phillips, Andy Walker and...) and during this time they were doing shows on London-based FM station Radio Free London. Sept. 10th saw a relay of RFL on 6285. Two months later- Sun November 12th- RFL was heard on 6294 and later that morning on 6250. Signals on the continent were only poor. Sun December 3rd 6294 was again in use, this time with a better signal. Later on that morning the station was testing on 6400 kHz, the show was hosted by Eric May. Signal-strength was solid like in the "good old" days of WNKR. Sun December 10th at 09.00 UTC Andy Walker was heard on 6285, inviting listeners to tune



their dial to 6400 where RFL was on air. In the first part of the morning the signal was variable, sometimes inaudible because of fading and noise. Later on that morning reception was excellent!! Till 10.00 UTC back to back music was played interspersed with brief announcements. From 10.00 onwards an interesting documentary was to be heard covering the history of Radio Free London. Early in the afternoon a rock show was aired. At 14.12 UTC RFL was noted on 6210 with a fair signal. In the pxs it was announced that RFL was 27 years young perhaps being the oldest British and even European free radio station still on the air. The latter may suggest that RFL is not just a new 1995 station using the name of an old and well-known former London pirate station but that the current RFL has ties with the old RFL. The original Radio Free London was founded in 1968 following the introduction of the British M.O.A. Several well-known offshore personalities have been involved with the station, for instance Spangles Muldoon/Chris Carey and Peter Chicago. RFL started on medium wave and carried on through the seventies. Also in the early 80s the station was active. In that period FRS Goes DX carried regular updates about London's free radio scene (via Barry Stephens) and regularly RFL got mentions. We doubt however whether the station has been continuously on the London airwaves since the early 80s. It looks like the former WNKR crew have breathe new life into the station and it looks like one or a few persons of the old RFL are involved. Although we are not 100% certain, it seems as if the FM service has been suspended in favour of SW broadcasts. Address is Box 99, 19 Station Rd, London SE25 5AH in the UK. It looks like RFL will be heard several times over the Christmas period. Just check 6400!

UK RADIO INT. continued with weekly trms on 6233 kHz. Signals on the continent are mostly poor to fair (at the best). No doubt UK Radio's signal must have been badly affected because of BRI's strong 6236 signal. Address is Box 53, Bilstone, Wolverhampton WV14 6YS in the UK.

RADIO ORION was heard with a nice signal on 6275 kHz Sun Dec. 10th. We are not 100% sure but think that it was "The Big O" broadcasting a Norman Nelson tribute on Sat Dec. 9th. Address is c/o Worcester Street, Wolverhampton, West Midlands WV2 4LD in England.

November 14th **LASER HOT HITS** and **RADIO GEMINI** made a joint broadcast on 6220. Close down was at 12.00 UTC. As far as we know Radio Gemini hasn't been airing its traditional November



birthday transmission this year. Letters should be sent to Box 293, Merlin, Ontario N0P 1W0 in Canada. Both stations use this address!

The French **RADIO CAROLINE** can be heard every Sat & Sun on a fixed frequency of 6199.5 kHz. In Holland signal-strength is most of the times at a reasonable level. Also the modulation is good. Sat December 9th Caroline's signal was completely pushed away during part of the broadcast by the much stronger BBC (?) on 6195 kHz. Caroline is putting out a mixture of pop and French songs. Address is Box 97, F-62217 Beaurains in France.

MIDLANDS MUSIC RADIO continues with regular trms on 48 metres. Sun Nov. 12th a poor signal (on the continent) was heard on 6260. A week later the station made it on the same frequency with a

slightly better signal (10W only) and on the last November Sunday MMR was heard with a phone-in at the unusual time of 16.25 UTC! According to one of our main sources, the station's address is changed: 7A Victoria Street, Silverdale, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 6PP, UK. Do NOT mention the station-name on the envelope!

LEVEL 1 was heard testing its equipment Sun Nov. 26th. We are not certain if more than one tx was being used that day. Several times ELP's "Fanfare for the Common Man" was noted:

09.44-09.52 6245

09.53 6252

09.58 6260

10.04 6261

Without exception on all frequencies a strong signal was noted. At present time the following stations are part of Level 1: Weekend Music Radio, Radio Torenvalk, Transatlantic Radio, Radio Fusion, Speedwing Radio, Sud-West Radio, Radio Benelux & Crazy Wave Radio making up a total of 8 station from 4 countries. For more info contact cwr@srs.joy.se (Email) or write to (1). Level One is a collaboration of eight different stations.

Sun Nov. 19th **SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS** was causing some splatter on 6276 according to a few UK reports. Sun

Dec. 3rd the station was heard twice on 6256: at 09.54 and at 12.40 UTC. A week later the same channel was used. Nowadays 76 mb trms of the station seem to be a rarity although there was a time that 48 mb trms were hardly to be heard. At this time 48 metres seems to be favourite. Sub. Sounds is a one-man operation operated by Steve Midnight, a man with rather alternative thoughts. During the Dec. 10th broadcast he stated not to be interested in receiving reports and replying to people who wrote to him. He refuses to mention the station's address too often. The only mail he is keen on is comments on his pxs. He was aware of causing QRM to some stations (see above) but the only comment he made was that the other stations were only broadcasting irregularly. Expect some activity over the X-Mas period. Address is 5 Dolphin Court, 15 The Avenue, Branksome Park, Bournemouth, Dorset BH9 2UN in the UK.



News now from **SWR SWITZERLAND**. The following stations were noted on one of the IRRS frequencies:

Sat Nov. 11th 7125 Radio Sparks (3985 Party Radio 7125 R. Wonderful (rpt)
Sat Nov. 18th 3985 Sunshine CR (rpt) 7125 Sunshine CR (rpt) 7125 Radio Joystick
Sun Nov. 19th 3985 RTN 3985 Radio Francis Drake
Sat Nov. 25th 7125 R. Joystick 7125 Eurorock 7125 R. Francis Drake
Sun Nov. 26th 7125 Eurorock 7125 R. Francis Drake
Fri Dec. 1st 3980 Eurorock (rpt) 3980 Sunshine CR
Sat Dec. 2nd 7125 R. Joystick (rpt) 7125 Eurorock (rpt) 7125 Sunshine CR
Sun Dec. 3rd 3985 Wellenbrecher
Sat Dec. 9th 7125 Wellenbrecher 7125 Casablanca
Sun Dec. 10th 3985 Universal Live 3985 Casablanca
Fri Dec. 15th 3980 KWFA 3980 Casablanca
Sun Dec. 17th 3985 Radio Marabu
Fri Dec. 22nd 3980 Radio Marabu
Sun Dec. 24th 3985 SWR Switzerland
Fri Dec. 29th 3980 SWR Switzerland
Sun Dec. 31st 3985 Radio Sparks

The SWR Switzerland weekly broadcasting schedule via the IRRS in Milano, Italy has undergone major changes. Taking effect December 1st (or even earlier) a brandnew schedule has been introduced (although still a couple of stations were relayed on Sat Dec. 2nd & 9th!). Most important changes are that A) the European free radio stations are now being relayed on Fridays and Sunday afternoons. The Sat 12.00-14.00 UTC schedule has been dropped and B) 7125 is no more used for free radio stations. Relays are now on 3980/3985 in the 76 mb!

Fri 2100-2300 3980

Sun 1600-1800 3985

In addition SWR Switzerland is leasing airtime on Radio Miami Int. replacing Radio Copan Int. for the time being. These broadcasts are to be heard each Sat night at 23.00 UTC on 9955 kHz. Word has it (although we cannot confirm) that soon these trms will be ceased because RMI has put out (or did put out) pxs containing Nazi propaganda... We hope to hear from Peter Galliker about this subject!

Sun December 24th will see a two hour SWR Switzerland X-Mas special via the

IRRS facilities starting at 16.00 UTC on 3985. Reception on this frequency is varying between fair and good. SWR's address is Box 35 in CH-4027 Romerswil, Switzerland. During the Dec. 31st Radio Sparks broadcast, a listener's competition will be organized with no less than 25 prizes. Four guest deejays will be attending the show.

Some info about Eurorock: the station was founded early 1995 by Jeff Anderson who once was the OP of Radio Pogo 104. Because of private circumstances, Jeff couldn't produce pxs no more by the end of the 80s. After a few year's break, the idea of Eurorock was born. Jeff's main taste of music is ROCK that isn't played that often on official radiostations. Eurorock uses the facilities of Radio Europe and the IRRS. The station has no plans to start trms with own equipment. Address is (1).

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC RADIO is very active on 48 metres since a month or two. In November the stations was on the air most weekends on Sundays on a variety of frequencies: 6245, 6260, 6270 & 6275 kHz. Sun November 19th a joint

broadcast with the OPs of Radio Laguna and Radio Wellenbrecher was put out. A poor signal was heard on 6291 khz. For IMR's address please check the 76 mb report. So far no tests have been heard on 6910 kHz! It seems that IMR is also active on 45 metres using the call-sign India Mike Romeo. Trms are in SSB. Address: P.O.Box 1951, D-79554 Weil am Rhein in Germany.

German station **RADIO Dr. TIM** was noted several times in recent weeks. Saturday November 11th a test was carried out in cooperation with the OP of Radio Torrenvalk. A strong signal was heard on 6270 at 10.26 UTC. The following day an equally strong signal was heard on 6281 kHz. Two weeks later Dr. Tim was active on 6270 and earlier that morning on 6281. Modulation on the latter frequency was not clean. The same two frequencies were used December 3rd but in contrast with for instance early November signals were much poorer, probably because of less favourable conditions. The same rather poor signal was noted on Sun Dec. 10th when the station was using 6281. According to our info, a 90W tx is being operated. In combination with an effective aerial sytem and a loud mod level, this must be more than enough to provide a solid signal in the whole of Western Europe. Over the X-Mas festive season Dr. Tim will be airing a special show with taped/written listener's season's greetings. Rumour has it that Dr. Tim will be using a 400W PA some time in the not too distant future. Soon (over the X-Mas period) Dr. Tim will be have a 30 minute relay via KIWI Radio New Zealand. Frequency: 7445U. Address is (1).

RADIO COMMUNICATION from Germany is certainly one of the more active German stations nowadays. At least this conclusion may be drawn when looking at the loggings. And: most of the time very well-produced signals are to be heard. Sun Nov. 12th a test was aired on 6239. At 13.44 that same day the station was also heard on 6276. On both frequencies strong signals were noted. One week later 6246 was in use and yet another test was noted on Sun December 3rd on 6240. The station can be contacted via (1). Most broadcasts were done with 15W and so far reports from Finland, Belgium, Sweden, Austria, The UK and Germany have been received. Sporadically Communication can be found on 76 metres. Also medium wave trms are planned on 183 metres.





RC uses a former 15W army tx having a range between 2-12 MHz. The station plans to be on during one of the 1995 Christmas days.

RADIO GOOD FUN put out SW broadcasts three weeks in a row: Sun Nov. 19th & 26th as well as Dec. 3rd 6295 was occupied with fair signals. Good Fun is a new Italian private station active on either 6280 or 6295 each Fri night starting at 20.00 UTC and on Sunday mornings. Current power seems to be 100W but will be upped to 1.5 kW as soon as possible. Tests on 3900 are scheduled, the station's IDs are in Italian and English. September of this year the first SW tests were conducted. Address is GFR c/o GAMT, Box 3, Succursale 10, 3100 Treviso in Italy.

RADIO STARDUST INT. will be relayed via Dutch medium wave pirate Radio Korak Sat December 23rd. Trm will take place on 1648 kHz between 22.30-01.00 UTC. That same night (!) Stardust is to be heard via Radio Miami Int. on 9955 kHz starting at 23.00 UTC.

RADIO ZODIAC INT., the station which has NO connection at all with the 1970s RZI, was heard reading out letters during its Nov. 26th px on 6280. Some QRM was noted. Later on that morning Optimod was relayed and following the DX-news at 12.40 UTC RZI was heard testing. Signal quality on the continent can be best described as fair. In the UK signals are mostly strong. Address is (9).

Belgian **RADIO BRIGITTE** has been a very regular broadcaster throughout 1995. Sun Nov. 19th 6253 was in use. Sat Nov. 25th Brigitte's 6576 was suffering QRM from an Italian station using 6580. Sun the 26th Brigitte tuned its tx to 6216, a rather unlucky choice because 6216 is very close to an international distress channel. In one of the recent pxs, all listeners were informed that as from 1996 onwards Brigitte will be broadcasting each Monday, Wednesday and Friday apart from the already existing weekend activities! Address is Box 10, 7954 ZG Rouveen in Holland.

RADIO MARABU uses a brandnew mailing address: P.O.Box 1166, D-49187 BELM in Germany. For a quick response write to this address. The Wuppertal address (1) is still open until further notice. There is a chance Marabu will be active via its 7484 kHz outlet (which hasn't been

used for a very long time) over the X-mas period. For info about Marabu's new service- Alternative Music Radio Shows- just read the advert in this very issue!!

CRAZY WAVE RADIO was only heard twice in November: on the 12th on 6280 & on the 26th on 6260 kHz. Fair/good signals were heard in Germany. Sun December 10th CWR was broadcasting on 6245//6260 very much the same as the BNL broadcast Sun Nov. 19th. Mod on 6245 sounded a bit dull. Signal-strength in Sweden was excellent on both frequencies. Close down was at 10.00 UTC and signal-quality was varying between poor and good, mainly due to conditions (noise & fading). Address is (1).

RADIO TORENVALK was to be found with a solid signal on 6260 Sun Nov. 26th. Perhaps more interesting is the fact that the station tested on 9242 kHz Sun November 19th. With only 30W of power, a good signal was received in the UK and Italy. Longer skip which is quite normal on higher frequencies, made reception in Holland and large parts of Germany impossible. According to some people, the test could have been carried out in preparation for the return of sister-station Radio Tonair on 31 metres! We are very curious.... Address is Box 94, 7038 ZH Zeddam. Latest news regarding the 31 mb broadcast: according to our German colleagues of Free Radio Info, the 19th November test on 9242 was carried out by Radio Tonair Int. and NOT by Torenvalk. FRI mentioned the exact time of the trm: 11.05-11.36 UTC. In addition: Tonair also tested Nov. 12th on 9030. So keep an eye on the 31 mb!! Address Radio Tonair is P.O.Box 21, 7010 AA Gaanderen, Holland. Thanks Frank!

RADIO BLACK BEARD was testing on 6265 kHz Sun Dec. 10th. For a long time the station has been completely silent. During the trm a phone number was mentioned (+44-421607974). A low-powered transistorized tx having an output of only 2-3 watts (!!) was in operation connected with a Inverted V some 25 foot above ground level. In the evening Stefan Printz from Pirate Connection, living in Sweden, called the OP informing him about reception at his QTH! Comment of the Black Beard OP: "you've made my day, in fact I think you have made my whole week!" Also in Germany the station was received in fair quality proving conditions on the 10th were favourable, especially during

the late morning/early afternoon. A new tx has just been finished off, so improved signals are to be expected in the near future. At present time the station has NO mailing address. Thanks Stefan for the info!!

RADIO TITANIC INT. from Germany was heard with a 20th birthday show and a repeat of a Halloween px Sun Nov. 19th via the Radio Mirage tx. 1995 marks the 20th anniversary of RTI, certainly a milestone in the station's history. Whether there will be more 20th birthday shows in December is unknown! Address is (1).

SW NEWS IN BRIEF

JOLLY ROGER RADIO crashed with BRI Nov. 26th. But OP Joe Vincent soon took corrective measures by switching his tx to 6220, a frequency which is most of the weekends in use. JRR carries on with regular relays of BRI & Laser Hot Hits. Address is Box 39, Waterford in Eire ***

OZONE RADIO can be heard most weekends on 6210 kHz with poor/fair signals on the continent. December 10th a rather alternative music format was noted including big band tunes and pre 1950 music (ragtime, jazz). In the early part of the morning Ozone was on 6299, experiencing QRM from an unknown station on 6298. As a kind of exception Ozone used 6275 November 12th. Address is 55 Chester Rd, London N19 5DF *** Who can send us some info regarding a **RADIO KRISTAL** (or Crystal) being noted Sun Dec. 3rd with a test on 48 metres? Signal was fair, address is unknown ***

WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO broadcast two Sundays in a row on 6210. November 12th WMR was heard at 15.15 with only poor reception on the continent, a week later the station was clashing with Ozone at 11.02 UTC. We are looking forward to hear live pxs of WMR over the X-Mas period although we have no confirmation. Address is (2) *** Also on the 12th at 11.47 UTC two stations were repeating strange IDs on 6210 *** A very strong carrier was heard on 6215 kHz Sun Dec. 10th. At 13.49 UTC the tx was suddenly switched off... *** **SEASOUND** is the name of a station which was heard on 6233 Nov. 12th with a phone-in px. Perhaps via UK Radio??? *** Sun November 12th was indeed a very good Sunday. Around 11.20 UTC four different stations were qso-ing on 6240L. Strongest one were **DT5** and **SIERRA TANGO**. The other two stations were **KILO LIMA** from France and **DT54** from the Saarbru-



ecken area *** A station calling itself **RADIO NORDSEE** using a Zurich address (?) was heard on 6282 Sun November 12th at 14.50 UTC. Signal-strength was good! *** **TRANSATLANTIC RADIO** was only heard once in recent weeks, namely on 6261 November 26th. Signal was ok. Address: see 76 mb section *** **RADIO PERFEKT** (1) was heard twice November 12th: at 09.08 and 14.37 UTC, both times on 6241. A live qso-report was noted. Sun Dec. 3rd a fair/good signal was noted on 6277 *** Dutch **RADIO SANTANA** is mainly a qso-pirate transmitting only at irregular intervals. Sun November 12th the station was active on 6273 & 6283 using a 20W tx. Signal quality was very good. Address: see 76 mb report *** Another German station, **RADIO DRILAND**, put out a decent signal Nov. 19th on 6297. Address: see 76 mb section *** **RADIO CORONER** is operated by Tommy & Tracy Lee. Main frequency is 6580 kHz. Additionally 6260 is in use for Qso-ing. The station uses a Kenwood transceiver with an output between 10-50W. Trms last no longer than 15 minutes. Address is Box 411131 in D-55068 Mainz, Germany. Mind you: this address will be soon closing down (PC) *** **RADIO PANDORA** seems to be satisfied with its 6306 kHz frequency. Only one other station is also using this part of the band: RPA. Sun Nov. 26th Pandora suffered QRM from La Voz del Cid. In October a new address in London was announced but it seems this has already been replaced (!) by another new address: (10). Email address: Pandora@srs.joy.se *** **ROSE PANTHER AMSTERDAM** can be heard almost every Sunday mid-afternoon on 6307. Signals are usually

good. Address is Box 15558 in Amsterdam *** **OUTLAW RADIO** was heard twice via different relays November 19th. On 6210 Ozone's tx was in use as a relay and on 6280 Radio Mirage's tx *** **CAROLINE RECORDINGS** were heard from a mysterious station using 6204 kHz Sun Nov. 19th. Address unknown. There are rumours an old Irish pirate is due to return on SW?? *** Dutch broadcaster **RADIO PLUTO** tested on 6270 Nov. 19th. Signal was fair. Address is Box 103, 8120 AC Olst in Holland *** **GOOD MUSIC RADIO**, not to be confused with Radio Good Fun, tested Sun Nov. 26th on 6220. A strong signal was heard on the continent. Address: Towers, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 9EV in the UK. We are not 100% sure whether the postal code is fully correct! *** Sun Nov. 26th **RADIO AMAZONIA** was relayed via the IMR facilities on 6291. Address is (10). Also **RADIO WONDERFUL** was heard on 6291 via IMR Sun Dec. 3rd at 09.09 UTC *** **SUNSHINE CLASSIC ROCK** was relayed via Radio Europe Sat Dec. 2nd at 09.40 & 14.07 on 7295L & 7300L resp. The following day the station was once again relayed on 7295L. Address is (4) *** **RADIO UNID INT.** (1) tested on 6287 Nov. 12th. A strong signal could be picked up at 16.13 UTC *** **RADIO LAGUNA** (10) is using a 22W tx and was heard on the 12th and 19th, both times with only poor signals. Modulation was on a too low level. Address is (10) *** **RADIO MIRAGE INT.** was heard with relays of RTI & Outlaw Radio and with own programming Sun November 19th. Signal-strength on the continent was same as it ever was: fair/good! In the UK the

station was enormously strong. Address is (1) *** In FRSGDX 137 we reported about a new UK-based station **RADIO 17**. According to Pirate Connection it's a German station. During the Sept. 10th 6209 broadcast the Venlo maildrop seems to have been announced although this address has already closed a while ago *** In FRSGDX 137 we reported about the come-back of **PFBS** Nov. 5th celebrating the station's 10th anniversary. According to one of our German sources the winner of the competition which was part of the on air celebrations, will be surprised with a...SW transmitter. We are curious which listener will commence trms in future... *** **RADIO BENELUX** is certainly belonging to the most active stations in Germany. Sun November 19th the station was heard very well in Germany on 6245/6260 kHz. Sun Nov. 26th the station was on 6260 and suffered QRM from TAR. Address is (1) *** **STAR CLUB RADIO** (1) was heard on 6290 Sun Dec. 10th. Signal was fair in Germany. The programme was the same as heard on 3945 Dec. 9th *** A mysterious **RADIO KING** was putting out classical music on 6294 Sun Dec. 10th. Signal was only poor. Who can give us more info? *** **FAKE RADIO VATICAN**, a spoof station, will possibly take to the air during the X-Mas period *** Dutch MW broadcaster **RADIO KORAK** has plans to commence SW broadcasts *** Remember the raid on **RADIO BALTIC INT.** a couple of months ago? The station OP was found guilty and has to pay US\$ 600. It took 8 months to raid the station and another 8 to declare the OP guilty.

ATTENTION!! NOW AVAILABLE:

ALTERNATIVE MUSIC RADIO SHOWS

ISSUE # 1 - DECEMBER 1995

32 page DIN A 5 brochure with detailed features of more than 100 radio programmes worldwide featuring alternative music styles, like Industrial, Punk, Hardcore, Electro, Gothic, Dark Wave and more.

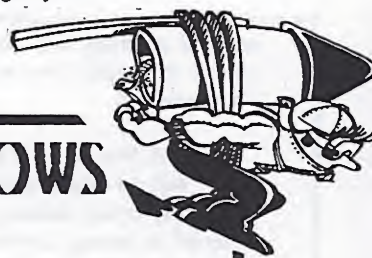
The booklet lists besides the addresses, phone and fax numbers also the contact persons at the radios and the preferred music styles of the programmes.

A brochure with a wealth of informations which should be very helpful for the independent recording artists and record labels seeking for airplay for their music.

The brochure is available for DM 10,-/ 7US\$(incl. p+p).

Radio Marabu, P.O. Box 1166, D-49187 Belm, Germany

Get also in contact with us for detailed informations about Radio Marabu or send us your cassette or CD releases for an airplay.



MAILBOX 2727

It has been a long time ago I last used the key to open up our Herten maildrop, but since Peter has been very busy lately he asked me to have a look in Mailbox 2727 to see if anything had arrived. It was a pleasant surprise to find that many listeners still take the time to write letters to us. I still remember the good old days when Peter and I did the *International Listeners Letter Show*, but one of the things we often complained about was the terrible handwriting of a lot of you out there! But lo and behold! most of you seem now to have entered the electronic

0930-1230 UTC because I wasn't at home at that time'. But he doesn't write where he was at that time!

Michael Kleffel from Meiningen in Germany has been a very faithful listener over the years: *'Heute endlich konnte ich nach sehr langer Zeit Euer Programm wieder hören. Und wie es der Zufall will, auch noch eure Jubiläumssendung! Prima! Übrigens habe ich in 1987 Euer Programm zum ersten Mal gehört'*.

'Nou, dát was echt een leuke "15e verjaardag": bijna alles zoals "toen": FRSH met meerdere uren van uitzending, die

Germany, writes: 'Nach langer Zeit, in der ich Euch immer wieder einmal an Wochenenden im 41- oder 48m-Band hören konnte, habe ich mir nun endlich die Zeit genommen, Euch einen Empfangsbericht zu senden. Das liegt aber auch daran, daß in diesem Jahr mein Interesse an Free-Radio, besonders durch die vielen Stationen welche den Italian Radio Relay Service nutzen und dadurch mit erstaunlich gutem Signal gehört werden können, erheblich gesteigert wurde'. Well Reiner, better late than never! Reiner received us for the first time on 15 August 1982. At the moment he is responsible for the 'Buchtip' in the German magazine 'Weltweit hören' and he also contributes to the famous 'Kurier'.

Manfred H.E. Beyen from Emden, Germany heard us on 15 October on his vintage 1953 Collins 51J3 double superhet receiver using a 30 meter long L-type antenna.

'At first I would like to send you my congratulations on the 15th broadcasting anniversary of the Free Radio Service Holland!' writes **Christian Bergmann** of Elstertrebnitz in Germany, one of our first listeners in what was then the GDR! *'I wish FRSH for the next 15 years of broadcasting success and a steady and growing listeners audience. Many thanks for those many and always enjoyable broadcasts since 1980'.*

'Konnte ab Sonntagmorgen 9.45 Uhr bis Sendeschluß um 15.45 Uhr un 45 Sekunden!, Eure Sendung auf der 6.286,4 variabel verfolgen. War ja mal wieder eine Mammutsendung mit vielen interessanten Geschichten und wirklich guter Musik, wie es sich der Hörer wohl wünschen. Signal war über die ganzen Stunden doch recht konstant gewesen', writes **Klaus Fuchs** from Idar-Oberstein, Germany. But - as some others did - he also observes: *'Allerdings war Euer Signal alle 25 bis 30 kHz bis hinunter zu der 6200 gut hörbar. Dies war nicht so schön'*. As already said above, we did have some problems with our transmitter.

Gerwin Schuette from Berlin is another long time listener. He writes: *'Wie schnell doch die Zeit vergeht! Ich kann mich noch gut an die ersten Sendungen erinnern. Damals machte noch Chris das*

age and are using text- and/or wordprocessors to compile your letters. Wonderful, wunderbar!

Kurt-J. Przystupa of Duisburg, Germany, was not quite awake when he tried to tune in to our birthdayparty: *'Leider hatte ich zu Anfangs die falsche Frequenz gewählt'*. Luckily enough he did find us somewhat later: *'Die Sendung hat mir sehr gut gefallen. Jubiläumsmusik war sehr gut aufeinander abgestimmt'*.

'After 2½ years, I finally heard again a program of the FRS Holland. I was very happy when I tuned into 6286 kHz at 0920 UTC. The signal was good enough to follow the program which was once again very good', writes **Rudi Loderbauer** from Mettenbach in Germany. *'Unfortunately I was not able to hear you from*

aam deze kant op de 6286,3 kHz doorgaand met een goed signaal binnenkwam. Bedankt voor de uitzendingen, die waren (zoals ook "in die tijd") ook al nu weer "echt leuk, om er naar te luisteren"!!!'. Such words can only come from our longtime friend **Norbert Scheel** in Berlin!

'Zunächst vielen Dank für die schöne Sendung, und herzlichen Glückwunsch zum 15 Jährigen Bestehen. Habe heute übrigens FRSH zum ersten mal gehört. Hat mir wie gesagt sehr gut gefallen', writes **Veit (DL7ET)** from Germany. *'Allerdings war die Aussendung von einigen Oberwellen begleitet bzw. irgendwelche Mischprodukte'*. That's right Veit, we did have some problems with our transmitter. In large parts of Europe we could also be heard on 6260 kHz!

Reiner Schneider from Greifath,





deutsche PX. Die heutige Sendung hat mir sehr gut gefallen. Auch der Empfang war recht gut. Macht weiter so!

'Hi, my name is Steven Overall. Today I heard your birthday show. In fact I was able to hear you on 2 different frequencies on the 48 mb! Was this intentional?' As stated above Steven, this wasn't intentional, but it is interesting to know that this spurious signal on 6265 even made it to London!

In Vaison la Romaine in France lives **Stephane Cazaux**. He writes: 'Dear operator, it is with great pleasure that I am writing to you because this morning it was the first time that I had chance to listen to Free Radio Service Holland. I am 23 years, novice in shortwave listening with only a portable Panasonic RF345. In south east of France it is very rarely that I can listen pirate station, what's a thrill this Sunday! Please accept my apologies for the mistakes I surely made in this letter, writing English is not particulary easy for me'. No need to apologise Stephane: we rather receive letter like yours than no letters at all!

And here is another one apologizing with no reason at all: **Fabien Loche** from

Charleville-Mézières in France writes: 'This is the first letter I send you. First, I would like you to apologize me if I make some mistakes in my letter because I don't speak english very well. Let's introduce myself: I live in the north east of France. I'm 18 years old and I like listening to the short and medium waves pirates broadcasting. (I'm going to "build" my own SW station)'. Well, Fabien, we wish you all the success with your station. Please let us know when you are ready to hit the airwaves.

'Nice that you were back with your birthday show. On Sunday your signal was booming in. Especially I enjoyed to listen to the Stefan Kramer-show with the extracts of the BNL-party and the radio news. The music selection was well done to illustrate the feeling of freedom. The FRSH-flashbacks reminded me as "the same procedure every year" but there are many people who do not know the FRSH quite well. I am looking forward to your next show which always reminds me to the golden decade of pirate radio in the 80th. The quizz was too difficult for me, but such quizzes are better than that of the type in which band the FRSH is actually

broadcasting', writes **Achim Bücher** of Detmold, Germany.

Holger Wehdemeir from Cuxhaven in Germany did send us a nice reception report with a beautiful header, which I sadly enough cannot reproduce here. It had a large wineglass on top with the number 1 and 5 left and right of it and in big letters: **HAPPY BIRTHDAY FRSH**. Thanks Holger!

'It has been a great pleasure for me to listen to you for a very long period of interruption. Besides amateur radio (ham) it's my favourite hobby to listen to free radio stations on the shortwave bands on lovely sunday mornings, I was very pleased to tune in to your station', writes **Andreas Thiemann** of Grüt in Switzerland. 'Grüt has about 2000 inhabitants. It's situated in the Eastern part of Switzerland, between Zürich and Rapperswil, near the town Wetzikon'. Best regards to your wife and two lovely daughters, Andreas!

And with this we end this edition of Mailbox 2727. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very happy new (listening) year!
Gerd

(advert)

*The supporting club **Freundeskreis Radio Marabu** (friends of Radio Marabu), officially registered at the local court of Osnabrück, was founded June 1995 by friends and volunteers of Radio Marabu. With founding an own supporting club we hope to get better financial basis to extend our activities. We hope that your membership payment will allow us to rent more airtime on shortwave organisations and to spread the programmes on more local radios. Every club member will get the Marabu-Newsletter as well as our press releases which we normally send out only to labels and media organisations. So, if you find Radio Marabu worth supporting, fill out the form below and send it to our address. Besides our listeners also record labels, bands and radio stations are invited to join the club.*

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, I will support the registered club „Freundeskreis Radio Marabu e.V.“ with a membership.

Name:

Address:

City: Zip: Phone: Fax:

Date and sign of the new member:

I pay the following annual membership rate: DM

☐ HARD TIMES RATE for students, schoolboys, unemployed:

☐ REGULAR RATE:

☐ SPECIAL RATE for labels, clubs, bands:

Europe

DM 20.--

DM 40.--

DM 100.--

Overscas

DM 30.--

DM 50.--

DM 110.--

☐ I transfer the payment to your account with the number 317508100 at the Raiffeisenbank e.G. Alfhausen. The bank number is 26562999.

☐ I enclose a check or money order in German currency.

☐ I enclose the payment in cash (at your own risk)

Send completed form to our address at P.O.Box 1166 at 49187 Belm, Germany or fax it to 0541/186713.

15 Years FRS-Holland

August 1995 marked the 15th birthday of the Free Radio Service Holland. It was celebrated October 15th with an almost 6 hour marathon broadcast. During all pxs so-called *Fact Files* each one covering a certain aspect of FRS' history were read out providing the listener a wide variety of FRS related info from the 1980-1995 era. FRSGDX now presents these File Facts in two parts. Part 2 follows in February (issue 139).

The FRS Deeja's

Between FRS-Holland's start August 1980 and now, almost 20 presenters have been active on the station.

Most of them were German presenters hosting the German Show. The first German presenter was *Chris* who hosted the FRS German Show between Aug. 1980 and Jan. 1982. After a two month silence he presented the Int. Listeners' Letter Show between April '82 and March 1984. *George Strong*, who was also on Radio Quadro, joined March 1982 but left already in July of that year. His successor was *Michael* who presented the popular German Show between Aug. '82 and Dec. '83. One of the most popular German FRS presenters was *Danny Kay* who took over from Michael in Dec. 1983. Danny did his final FRS show in Dec. 1989 thus being the longest-serving German presenter. At least for the moment! Already four months later his successor was ready to take over: *Johnny Best* better known as 'JB'. In Dec. 1990, a couple of months after the 10th birthday celebrations, *Stefan Kramer* got involved and for a while he & Johnny took turns until Johnny left in the Spring of 1992.

Barry Stephens did the English Service & FRS Golden Show right from the beginning till July 1985. *Mark Stafford* & *Tony Mitchell* presented their FRS Shows between Dec. 1987 and now. US man *Al*

Muick participated in the DX programme in 1981. Many years later he joined the Voice of Peace crew as an engineer. *Fred van Es* was for a 3½ year period the main man in the Musical Express. Fred started in August 1980 and his successor *Bert van Leer* continued that show between Febr. 1984 and May 1987. Another Dutchman who was on FRS right from the beginning is *Frankie Fanatic*. Remember his Album Show which was last heard in April 1981. *Gerd* was a regular co-presenter in the ILLS between 1985 and May 1991. And then the die hards.....*Peter Verbruggen* never ever missed a single FRS broadcast and almost the same applies to *Joop ter Zee*: during 3 months in 1982 Joop was absent. He was involved in shows like the ILLS, the FRS Golden Show, FRS Magazine and last but not least the famous Sounds Alternatives. Peter V. has almost presented 120 editions of FRS Goes DX and was also involved in the ILLS (=the FRS Mailbox Show) and the FRS Breakfast Show called FRS Magazine. One person is left: the one & only *Bobby Speed* who's been involved in the technical part of the story since the very beginning until now. This was a potted history of the FRS-Holland crew in the period August 1980- October 1995.

The January 1983 Raid

During the 15 years of SW broadcasts FRS-Holland was involved in a number of raids, either directly or indirectly.

January 16th 1983 is certainly the most memorable date because it was on that day that the Dutch RCD in co-operation with the German Bundespost raided the station just after the close down at 14.05 CET of the regular 3rd Sun broadcast. At the moment that Peter V. switched off the 10W tx which had been operating that morning on 7320 and later on 7315 kHz, a RCD officer who had been hiding some 10 metres next to the transmitting equipment, came out of the bushes and called in for assistance. A few moments later he was joined by a colleague and a police officer. Two 10W txs, two aerials, a new auto-reverse cassette machine, one rather expensive car battery and two invertors were confiscated. But that was not all: they drove to Peter's house where another two brandnew 40W rigs were found plus 4 invertors. Peter's studio equipment was left alone because of his kind cooperation.

There are a few remarkable details surrounding this black day in FRS' history:

① during this broadcast a new auto-reverse cassette deck was used to reduce the risk. Normally 3 cassette changes had to be made during a normal 4 hour broadcast, with this new deck only one change was necessary.

② Jan. 1983 was the first time a heavy 350 Amps car battery was used to make sure power remained at a maximum during the entire broadcast. It was not only the first but also the last time that battery could be used...

③ FRSH's Jan. 16th pxs should have been aired on two frequencies: 6250 & 7315. The 48 mb trm had to be cancelled minutes before the broadcast would commence....a rope broke and there was simply no time to fix the job in time. What was left was the 41 mb tx normally tuned to 7315 but: that morning Peter forgot the 7315 X-tal and was forced to use a spare one being 7320. The 7315 X-tal was put in the tx at 12.00 when px-cassettes were changed

④ Last but not least: the evening before the raid two brandnew 40W txs were successfully tested in Peter's studio. Those txs had for some months been on a safe place and were moved to Peter's house for the purpose of testing them out. It was a pure coincidence they were at Peter's house during the day of the raid!

The Jan. 16th trm produced 50 letters from 10 different countries. Two weeks after the raid FRS-H. was back on the air with a special 90 minute broadcast informing the audience about the raid. FRSH was also indirectly involved in the raids on Radio Demare in March 1987 and the Radio New Wave raid October 16th 1988, just over 7 years ago.

Recalling Special Memories Part 1

When broadcasting for such a long period, there are always a number of remarkable things to remember. For instance on that Sunday February 1980 when an attempt was made for a first test-transmission on 6265 kHz. Everything which could go wrong went wrong!! The tx couldn't be tuned up properly, the aerial did not hang any higher than a clothesline and to make matters even worse: we got an unwanted visit in the person of the mayor of the town we were transmitting from who apparently was walking with his beloved little doggie. All transmitting gear was



lying all over the ground, he approached Peter V. & Bobby S. and mumbled: "mmm, radio- electric equipment." Then he left. Only seconds later Speed shouted: "pack up and go" and we never left the location quicker than on that Sunday.

Another date to remember is Sun Dec. 20th 1981, exactly 14 years ago. It was the 17th regular FRSH trm in succession and the 2nd annual Christmas broadcast. What happened? Peter had already put all transmitting equipment in his car the day before on Saturday evening. It was a very cold night and when FRSH Christmas tunes appeared just before 10 that Sunday, it appeared the cassette machine was completely frozen. As a result the px cassette was playing at a wrong speed sounding worse than terrible. Thirty minutes later a new machine was put into service.

Sunday Sept. 20th 1981 Peter arrived at his house after putting FRS on the air. He never stayed on the actual transmitting location but only returned to change px cassettes. The 41 mb signal was so weak on his home receiver that he decided to go back to the location to retune the tx. But the signal remained weak. At 11.00 hours Peter had enough of it and switched off 7315. Two weeks later it appeared 41 metres had been doing very well. Only: what Peter didn't know was that conditions were a bit weird. Till that moment he always had received a good signal at his home, so he wasn't used to that situation.

Recalling Special Memories part 2

The Free Radio Service Holland perhaps would have never got to the air without the indispensable help of Barry Stephens. In the late 70s British stations ruled the SW airwaves and *European Music Radio*, Barry's brainchild, was the most popular station of them all. Right from the beginning FRS-Holland had close bonds with EMR and Barry. Not to wonder knowing Peter V. stepped into SW radio via EMR: he hosted the Dutch service on EMR in 1979 & 1980. When EMR was raided Oct. 1980, FRSH started relaying EMR on a regular basis. As a result of the raid on FRSH in Jan. 1983, it was not possible to continue EMR's relays. Barry Stephens decided to close down EMR for good and Peter arranged a Dutch relay for EMR's very final SW broadcast which would take place May 29th 1983. However: the party was spoilt because the EMR

tapes didn't arrive in time on the location. It had to be decided to move the broadcast to June 12th. One week earlier, June 5th FRSH would be on air with a repeat of the May 15th broadcast which was badly affected by poor conditions. But what happened? When FRSH started broadcasting on 7317 June 5th via a British relay, EMR started broadcasting on the very same frequency via the Dutch relay. The Dutch OP was mistaken and switched his tx on one week too early !! For some 10 minutes sister-stations EMR & FRSH were interfering with each other, a rather unique but also funny incident! A phone-call was enough to convince the Dutch OP he was mistaken.

The first time that strange propagation conditions influenced a FRSH 3rd Sunday trm was on May 15th 1983. A strange phenomenon- something totally unknown to the station- happened that day: *long skip*. The signal was totally inaudible for more than an hour although Peter V. listened on a 300 km distance from the FRS tx. He was rather *confused*, so were quite a number of listeners who thought that the broadcast was cancelled. That day the terms *dead zone* & *long skip* were added to Peter's vocabulary.

When FRS started, the crew was hardly aware of things like propagation & 11 year sunspot cycle. Only years later it was realized that the period in which FRS-Holland started broadcasting, conditions were *very favourable*. No doubt that greatly contributed to the fact the 10,000 mW signal was doing so well all over the place. One of the best periods as far as listener's feedback is concerned was between October 1981 and March 1982.

Recalling Special Memories part 3

It's always hard to know some of those lovely txs are confiscated. And it certainly gave a sad feeling knowing those two 10W built-in txs in that wooden trunk changed hands in January 1983. But that's not the end of the story. Just to make sure you do understand the story: the wooden trunk in which both 807 txs were housed used to be property of the father of Frankie Fanatic who presented the Album Show in the first year of FRS-Holland's existence. A couple of years after the raid, Frank & his father watched a current affairs programme on Dutch television. The programme carried a report about illegal radio stations. Imagine their surprise when the

FRS txs in the original wooden trunk appeared on television. And so the FRS people found out that the two confiscated 10W txs *weren't destroyed*, something which the Dutch RCD is doing in most cases with illegal transmitting equipment. It appeared the txs were standing in a basement in the headquarters of the Dutch RCD in Nederhorst den Berg, together with other txs not being destroyed too. The reason was that the RCD saved some of the *most unique txs* being confiscated over the years. Like the FRS ones or FM txs hidden in a vacuum and a coffee maker. In the late 80s the FRS txs were again showed on the Dutch television, once again in a current affairs programme. And it was in the Summer of 1994 that the RCD- a division of the Dutch PTT- organised a very special exhibition called "On the air, off the air". This exhibition was held in De Hague and in fact covered the history of the RCD. Exhibits were several unique samples of confiscated txs. And yes, the FRSH txs were also among the exhibits. Joop ter Zee, Gerd & Peter Verbruggen visited the exhibition last year and one of the photos was used for the special colour 1994 14th Birthday qsl-card. In the mean time the wooden trunk is back in Nederhorst den Berg....

Especially in the 1980s it was quite common that a number of free radio magazines organized popularity polls. And FRS-Holland scored a number of very good results. In the Nov. 1982 poll organised by the Uk-based *FRS News* magazine, FRS came on a 5th position behind Caroline SW, Nova & Sunshine Dublin & BRI. A third place behind BRI & Apollo was the result of a SW poll from *Airspect News*-another UK magazine- in March '83. The German *KDKC* magazine organised polls in 1982 & 1983. In 1982 FRS was chosen on a #1 position ahead of Radio Wunderland, Radio Krypton, Radio Quadro, BRI & RECC. A year later in the June 1983 KDKC poll, the station was again chosen as the no. 1 SW station leaving behind Radio Gerona, BRI, Radio Apollo, Radio Nolan & SWR.

The 1986 & 1987 *Pin-Magazine* polls were the most successful ones in FRS' history. In both polls there were #1 positions in the categories "Best SW Station", "Best Listener's Service" and "Best DX-Show". Finally we mention the Spring of 1995. The reborn German magazine *Radio News* organised a poll and in the SW category FRS-Holland was voted as the no. 1 station.



WE WISH YOU A VERY

MERRY CHRISTMAS &

A HAPPY 1996 !!

